Monday, January 16, 2012

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SEARCH FOR SCHOOLS CHIEF {page 02}

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No superstar needed (unless you want fans)

- Sixers are NBA's biggest surprise of '12
- Lacking star power has fueled 9-3 start
- But team ranks second-to-last in home attendance

{page 17}

▶ The 76ers, who are crushing opponents by an average of 15 points, draw comparisons to the 2003-2004 Detroit Pistons for the lack of superstars.

Awards

Hollywood on its toes at the Golden Globes

- Host Ricky Gervais and surprise wins made for an eventful night {page 09}
- The red carpet report {page 10}

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BARBERA'S ON THE BOULEVARD

HAPPY DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY!

In the news

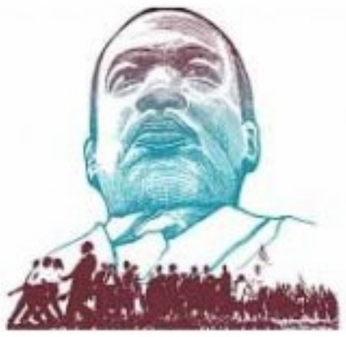
Man critical in Fairhill hit-and-run

A man is in critical condition after he was struck by a car in a Fairhill hit-and-run last night. A car slammed into the victim around 11:15 p.m. on the 300 block of Lehigh Avenue. He was taken to Temple University Hospital for surgery. A witness was able to get a description of the car, which was later found on the 1200 block of American Street.
METRO

In the news

Still free in Wildwood

Wildwood visitors will be able to enjoy another year of free beaches, though it may be their last. Mayor Ernie Toiano Junior said that a beach fee referendum may be introduced this November to help offset the million-dollar-per-year cost of keeping the town's beaches clean, according to reports.
METRO



MLK Day marked by many events

PHILADELPHIA. Philly was the first city to institute the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, which is in its 17th year with 85,000 participants of more than 1,300 volunteer opportunities across the region. Here are some events worth checking out today:

- **Girard College**, at 2101 South College Avenue, is the hub of service activities starting at 9 a.m. They include a visit from Vice President Joe Biden and his wife.
- **Paul "Earthquake" Moore** will host a community clean-up from 9 a.m. to noon, followed by a historical reenactment march starting at 4 p.m. at 65th Street and Woodland Avenue.
- **The Philadelphia Martin Luther King Jr. Association for Nonviolence Inc.** will hold its 30th annual benefit luncheon and awards at the Sheraton Downtown after a symbolic ringing of the Liberty Bell by two daughters of Malcolm X and Betty Shabazz.

METRO

Our schools going back to the future?

Philly's school leaders weigh returning to a CEO-like chief for broke, massive district Search is on for person like Vallas and Ackerman

RICARD LARMA/METRO

Vallas, the business-minded former Philadelphia schools chief, may be a prototype for the district's next superintendent.

"We don't have a specific list of things they have to have done in their past. When we get further down the road, we might narrow that and have some specifics." PRITCHETT

With the School District of Philadelphia ready to begin its latest search for a superintendent, a key question is whether the next leader should come from the business world or the classroom.

The city has had its share of both in recent years, without much success. Paul Vallas, credited with turning around Chicago schools and billed as a disaster-recovery expert, saw himself as a CEO; but he left after five up-and-down years.

Then, in 2008, the district hired lifetime educator Arlene Ackerman. While standardized test scores continued to improve, Ackerman's tenure ended after three rocky years and a massive deficit. Before she left, Ackerman oversaw massive cuts to close a $629 million deficit that was a result of poor planning on the district's part. Oddly, her greatest effort before the budget problems was in the area of planning — namely "Imagine 2014."

Ackerman, the educator

Officials have said interim superintendent Leroy Nunery II will be considered, but he has not exactly received a strong vote of confidence.

Wendell Pritchett, a School Reform Commission member and head of the search committee, said the committee is casting a broad net.

"We don't have a specific list of things they have to have done in their past. When we get further down the road we might narrow that and have some specifics," he said. "In a perfect world we have somebody who has both. Not many of those people exist."

Mayor Michael Nutter has made education his top priority. He has talked about finding the right "leadership team" to turn around the district, still trying to balance a $3 billion budget. While management experience is key, finding someone familiar with the classroom is paramount.

"The expertise is how to make better teachers and learning at schools, so you need somebody who knows that," said Lori Shorr, the city's chief education officer.

Hiring time line

Key points in the search committee's time line:

- **Jan. 10 through Feb. 24:** Series of community engagement meetings
- **Feb. 24:** End community engagement process
- **March 7:** Advertise position to potential candidates
- **May 15:** Make offer to candidates

SOLOMON D. LEACH
sleach@metro.us

$1.2M

Amount the Alumnae Association of St. Hubert's Catholic School for Girls in the Northeast has vowed to raise to keep the school open.

Unusual links for shootings

NICETOWN. After witnessing a fatal shooting last Tuesday, which police believe to be accidental, a teenager was shot and killed on Friday.

The teen was on his way to the same house where police said he witnessed William Barrow allegedly shooting friend Devante Reid while "messing around with a gun." Police are trying to determine if Reid's death and Friday's shooting are related. METRO

GAMEON.

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8	9 IND 7:00 CSN	10 SAC 7:00 CSN	11 NY 7:30 CSN	12	13 WAS 7:00 CSN	14 WAS 7:00 CSN
15	16 MIL 2:00 CSN	17	18 DEN 7:00 CSN	19	20 ATL 7:00 CSN	21 MIA 7:30 CSN
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Would Washington have lots of Twitter followers?

- Social media debate about what Founding Fathers would've thought
- Old City summit melds two eras

Would George Washington have a lot of friends on Facebook? Would Ben Franklin be as prolific a quote machine on Twitter as he was in the Poor Richard's Almanac?

The answer is yes, according to a panel discussion last Thursday at the National Constitution Center: "What Would the Founding Fathers Think of Social Media?"

"They were techies," law professor Lori Andrews said. "I think the Founding Fathers would have found utility in social media tools, unless George Washington was crossing the river into Trenton and one of his guys posted on Facebook, 'It's so cold out here.'"

But with social media creating a new kind of a community, Andrews also argues our founders would also have drafted a constitution to protect online rights and privacy.

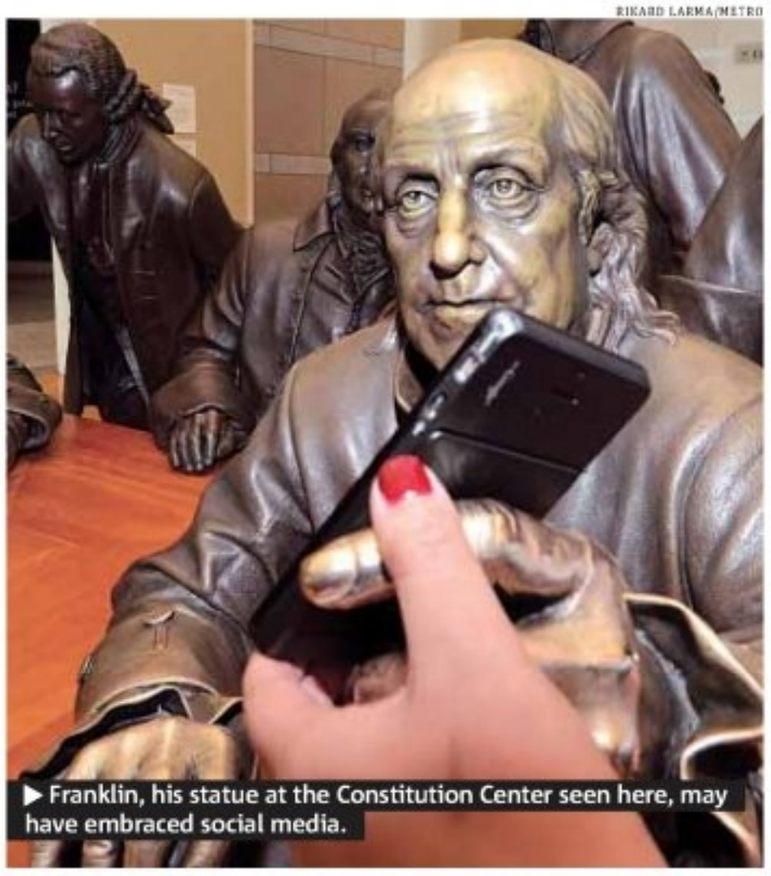
"The whole purpose of social media is to expand peoples' opportunities; but without protections, it's actually narrowing peoples' opportunities because when they realize they can't get a job because there's a picture of them with a glass of wine in their hand on Facebook, they stop posting," she said.

"The most important thing when people use these tools is to remember what your mother told you: Use good judgment."
JENNIFER PRESTON, THE NEW YORK TIME'S FIRST SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR, SUGGESTING A BALANCE

But Forbes staff writer Kashmir Hill extolled the benefits of freely available information, relaying a story about finding a woman's things strewn on the street, seeing her name on an unfilled prescription, looking up her Twitter account and reading that her car had just been burglarized. "I told her I found her stuff and she got it," she said. "It took three minutes."

ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

RIKARD LARMA/METRO



▶ Franklin, his statue at the Constitution Center seen here, may have embraced social media.

Pa. 'epicenter' of Web court cases

"Pennsylvania is the epicenter of social media cases," said Andrews, who traveled around the world researching court cases involving the technology.

▶ "Kids get expelled for criticizing their teachers on Facebook. There was the case where the school gave students free laptops with surveillance cameras in them and even cases involving jurors, where they'll ... tweet about it or post on Facebook, 'Should we put this guy away or not?'"

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Kless was attacked outside the historic bank at Fourth and Chestnut streets.

Temple grad IDed as Old City victim

A brutal Old City assault that started early Saturday morning left 23-year-old Kevin Kless dead.

Kless was at Lucy's Hat Shop Friday night with two female friends before he walked to the 400 block of Chestnut Street, police said. When he yelled at a passing cab, four men in a Mazda behind the cab presumably thought his anger was directed at them.

A verbal altercation may have occurred, police said. Two of the men got out and punched and kicked Kless. A third man from the vehicle jumped in and beat Kless with renewed force, smashing his head against the granite ledge of the old Second Bank of the United States building.

They fled as nearby park rangers responded to the girls' screams for help. By that time, Kless did not have a pulse. **METRO/AW**

Manhunt under way

PHILADELPHIA. Police are looking for a maroon, four-door Mazda with four men of Middle Eastern or Indian descent. Surveillance footage shows the car, but it is too grainy to be of much help, a spokeswoman said.

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Seeing the city in a different light

COURTESY OF THE PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART

▶ "Daddy Tattoo," one of the photographs by Zoe Strauss in an installation of her work on display at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Philly photog Zoe Strauss trades I-95 overpass for art museum with new retrospective of her work

Her gritty art shows underbelly of city landscape

You can take Zoe Strauss off of the street, but it's absolutely impossible to take the street out of Zoe Strauss. The Philly-based photographer, who has famously organized installations of her work underneath I-95 for the past 10 years, finds inspiration in the life-worn faces of Camden residents, the battered facades of inner-city Philadelphia buildings, or the hastily scrawled messages on graffiti-covered walls. The artist herself calls the work "an epic narrative about the beauty and struggle of everyday life."

"Zoe Strauss: Ten Years" brings her work inside the walls of the Museum of Art for the first time, with nearly 150 prints and several work-in-progress slideshows. "Just as Zoe brought the formal structure of a museum or gallery installation to I-95 to speak to people about the seriousness of their own lives as visual art," said curator Peter Barberie, "we hope that this installation will get the museum and the city talking to each other in new ways."

One of those ways is through the 54 billboards throughout the city that will replace their usual marketing messages with Strauss' photographs. The artist insisted on the total absence of advertising — even for her own exhibition — leaving the billboards as strange, out-of-context moments of gritty revelation for passersby.

If you go

'Zoe Strauss: Ten Years'
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Philadelphia Museum of Art
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"We hope that this installation will get the museum and the city talking to each other in new ways."
PETER BARBERIE, PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART CURATOR

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Paterno

Paterno: Had not heard of raping a man

PENN STATE. Joe Paterno, the longtime Penn State University football coach fired in the fallout from child sex abuse allegations against former assistant Jerry Sandusky, says he was unsure how to handle the first report about Sandusky that reached him in 2002.

"I didn't know exactly how to handle it," Paterno said in his first extensive post-scandal public comments. "And to be frank with you, I don't know that it would have done any good, because I never heard of — of rape and a man," he said. **REUTERS**

Russia: Craft fell safely

MOSCOW. Pieces of a failed Russian Mars probe plummeted into the Pacific Ocean far off the Chilean coast yesterday, Russian news agencies cited a military official as saying.

The spacecraft never made it out of Earth's orbit after its November launch on a rare interplanetary mission for Russia's struggling space program. **REUTERS**

Hacker: Free virus code

NEW DELHI. A hacker who goes by the name of 'Yama Tough' threatened at the weekend to release next week the full source code for Symantec Corp.'s flagship Norton Antivirus software. In the past week, Yama Tough has released fragments of source code from Symantec products. The hacker says the data was taken from Indian government servers. **REUTERS**

Murdoch discovers Web, uses it to lambast Obama

The billionaire media mogul, owner of such news properties as Fox News and the New York Post, has taken to Twitter to share his colorful opinions

Media baron Rupert Murdoch used his new Twitter account this weekend to attack the Obama Administration's opposition to parts of proposed legislation designed to combat Internet piracy.

"So Obama has thrown in his lot with Silicon Valley paymasters who threaten all software creators with piracy, plain thievery," News Corp.'s chairman and chief executive officer posted on his personal Twitter account at the weekend.

Murdoch, whose media empire includes Fox TV, The Wall Street Journal, Fox Studios and the Sun newspaper in Britain, continued with several tweets, attacking Google as the "Piracy leader" for streaming movies free. In later tweets he called Google a "great company."

The White House declined to make any other comment beyond their statement issued Saturday.

Google said it battles counterfeiters daily. "We believe, like many other tech companies, that the best way to stop them is through targeted legislation that would require ad networks and payment processors — like ours — to cut off sites dedicated to piracy or counterfeiting," Samantha Smith, a Google spokesperson, said in an e-mailed statement.

"The Fed is lending zillions all over the world at cheaper rates than Americans can get. Work that out." MURDOCH

At issue are the concerns White House officials raised on Saturday about elements in the proposed Stop Online Piracy Act pending in Congress. Google and Facebook already have decried the legislation as heavy-hand, while Hollywood studios and music labels say it is needed to save U.S. jobs.

In a blog posting, three advisers to President Barack Obama said they believed the act and similar bills could make businesses on the Internet vulnerable to litigation and harm legal activity and free speech.

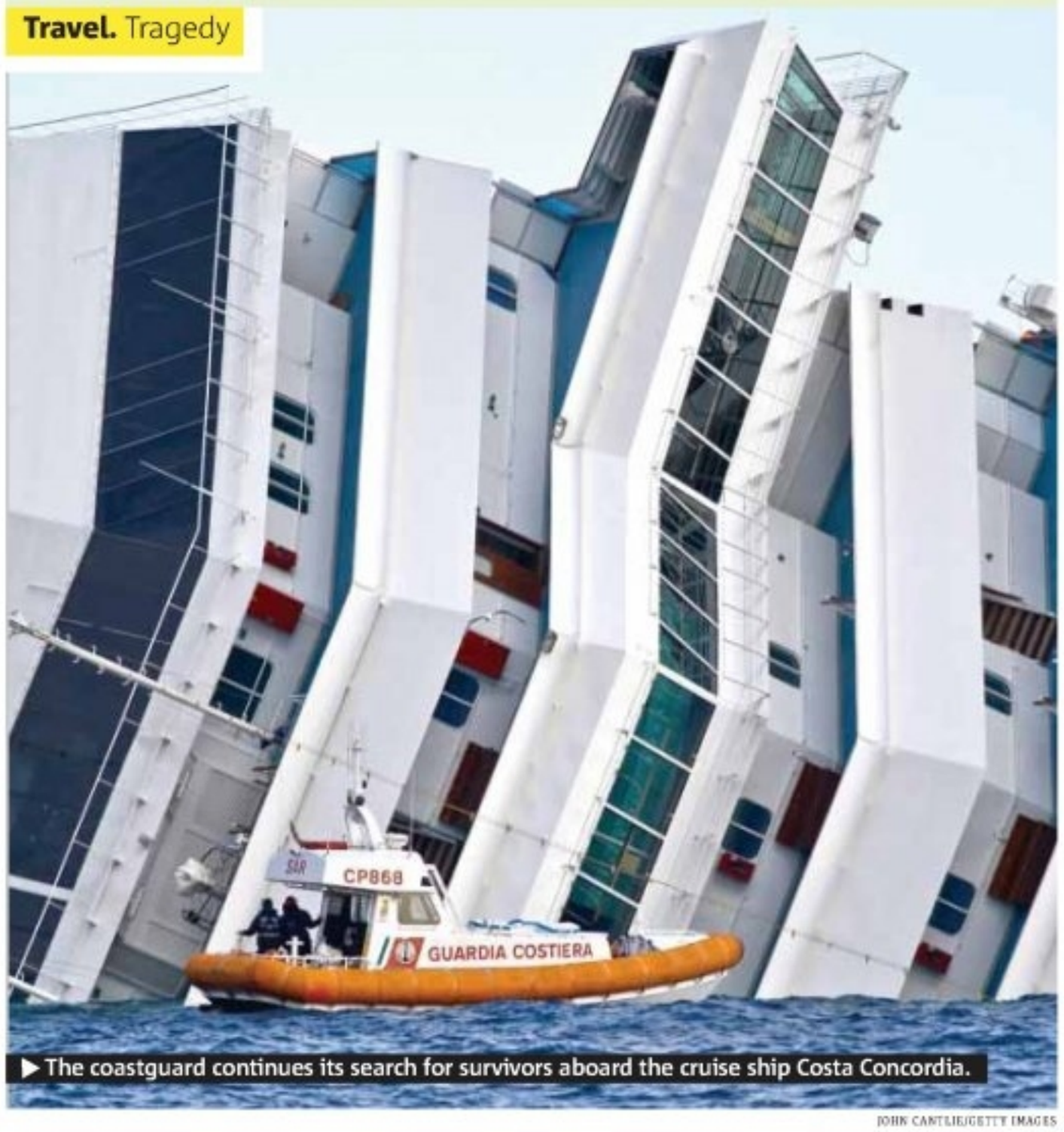
"Any effort to combat online piracy must guard against the risk of online censorship of lawful activity and must not inhibit innovation by our dynamic businesses large and small," said the officials, including White House cyber-security czar Howard Schmidt. **REUTERS**

Like a new toy

Murdoch, who opened his Twitter account this year, has used it to colorfully opine on a number of topics.

He admitted in a post to his company's mishandling of social network MySpace, which News Corp. bought in 2005 for $580 million.

Travel. Tragedy



The coastguard continues its search for survivors aboard the cruise ship Costa Concordia.

JOHN CANTILE/GETTY IMAGES

Search continues for capsize survivors

Divers found the bodies of two elderly men inside a capsized cruiseliner yesterday, raising to five the death toll after the luxury vessel dramatically keeled over off Italy's coast. Teams were painstakingly checking the interior spaces of the partly submerged Italian liner Costa Concordia for 15 people still unaccounted for after the huge ship was holed by a rock Friday night. REUTERS

Romney campaign leaves rivals behind

WASHINGTON. Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney has opened a wide lead over his rivals in the South Carolina primary election race, trouncing Newt Gingrich and gaining momentum in his march toward the party's nomination, a Reuters/Ipsos poll shows.

Romney could all but quash his rivals' presidential aspirations with a victory in South Carolina on Jan. 21 after winning the first state-by-state nominating contests in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Voters in South Carolina — who have favored Republicans in nine of the last 10 presidential elections — appear to have shrugged off attacks on Romney by rivals who accuse him of killing jobs as a private equity executive.

In a question asked of Republicans and Democrats, the poll found South Carolina voters would favor Romney over Obama by 46 percent to 40 percent. **REUTERS**

37%

The poll showed that 37 percent of Republican voters in S.C. back Romney. Congressman Ron Paul and former Senator Rick Santorum tied for second place with 16 percent support.

Santorum endorsement falls flat for chuchgoers

NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA. Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum touted an 11th-hour endorsement from conservative Christian leaders yesterday ahead of South Carolina's crucial nominating contest, but it appeared to have little influence on churchgoers.

Santorum said Saturday's endorsement by evangelical leaders proved that he is a better choice to take on Democratic President Barack Obama. "They know I'm the consistent conservative," Santorum said. **REUTERS**

Revealed: The most beautiful thought of 2011

From Darwinian evolution to the idea that personality is shaped by chance, theories are eclectic as science

Every January, John Brockman — the impresario and literary agent who presides over the online salon Edge.org — asks his circle of scientists, digerati and humanities scholars to tackle one question.

In previous years, they have included "How is the Internet changing the way you think?" and "What is the most important invention in the last 2,000 years?"

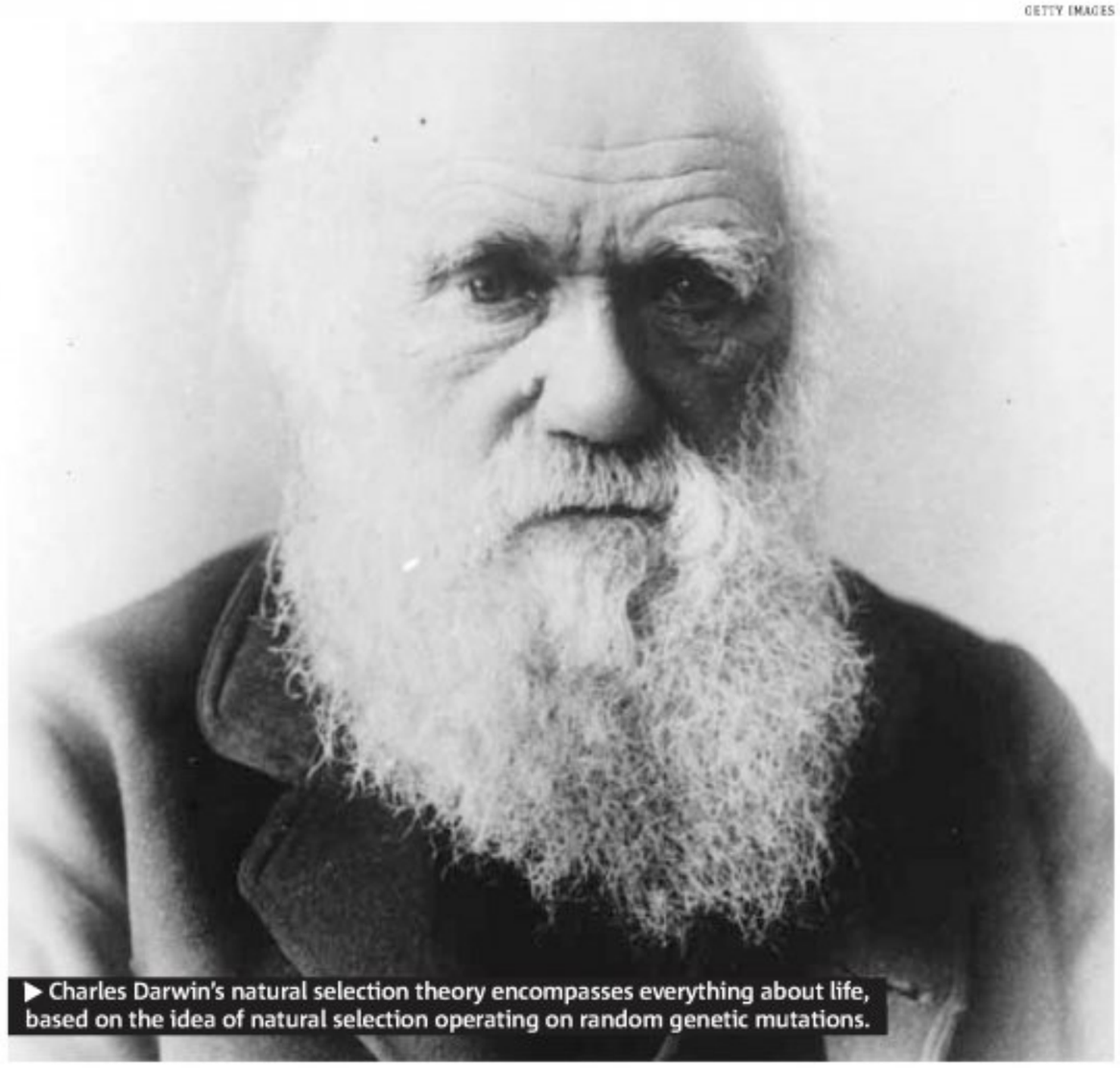
This year, he posed an open-ended question: "What is your favorite deep, elegant or beautiful explanation?"

The responses provide a crash course in science both well-known and out-of-the-box, as admired by the likes of Astronomer Royal Martin Rees, physicist Freeman Dyson and evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins.

Several of the nearly 200 scholars nominated what are arguably the two most powerful scientific theories ever developed. "Darwin's natural selection wins hands down," argues Dawkins, emeritus professor at Oxford University.

"Never in the field of human comprehension were so many facts explained by assuming so few," he says of the theory that encompasses everything about life, based on the idea of natural selection operating on random genetic mutations. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Charles Darwin's natural selection theory encompasses everything about life, based on the idea of natural selection operating on random genetic mutations.

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Honoring (and skewering) the best in TV and film

We weren't as curious about who would win as we were to see how Ricky Gervais would fare after last year's eyebrow-raising host job

With his searing opening monologue, host Ricky Gervais showed once again that he had globes made more of brass than gold Sunday evening at the Beverly Hilton for the 69th annual Golden Globe Awards, where the best in film and television from the past year were honored by the Hollywood Foreign Press.

It was a hit-or-miss opener with some cringeworthy jokes — one having to do with Justin Bieber and a turkey baster was particularly crude — but the shrewd Gervais was mainly able to keep things smart and sassy. He poked fun at himself, the Hollywood Foreign Press and host network NBC — which he referred to as a "nonprofit organization."

After asking the first presenter Johnny Depp if "he's actually seen 'The Tourist,'" Gervais quickly got off the stage and the show segued into the prize distribution (it is, lest we forget, an awards show).

Luckily, Metro was backstage for the big show to get reactions from the winners and see where awards season leads them next.

Because of deadlines, we've included a partial list of winners here — but you can always check out www.metro.us for our backstage gossip — as well as a complete look at all of the winners from Sunday night.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Winners

- **Supporting Actor, Motion Picture:** Christopher Plummer for "Beginners"
- **Actress TV Series, Comedy or Musical:** Laura Dern for "Enlightened"
- **Supporting Actress in a TV Miniseries:** Jessica Lange for "American Horror Story"
- **Best Miniseries or Motion Picture Made for Television:** "Downton Abbey"
- **Best Actor TV Series Drama:** Kelsey Grammer for "Boss"
- **Best TV Series Drama:** "Homeland"
- **Best Supporting Actress, Feature Film:** "Octavia Spencer, "The Help"
- **Best Original Song:** Madonna for "Masterpiece"
- **Best Screenplay:** Woody Allen for "Midnight in Paris"
- **Actress, Comedy or Musical:** Michelle Williams for "My Week With Marilyn"

KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Michelle Williams won Best Actress for portraying Marilyn Monroe in "My Week with Marilyn." Her win could mean trouble for Meryl Streep ("The Iron Lady") and Viola Davis ("The Help") in the Best Actress Oscar showdown.

Quoted

"The Golden Globes are to the Oscars what Kim Kardashian is to Kate Middleton."
RICKY GERVAIS

"If I'm still a virgin, Ricky, why don't you come here and do something about it? I haven't kissed a girl in a few years ... on television."
MADONNA TO GERVAIS

THE WORD: GOLDEN GLOBES

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip

Separation anxiety

Even though neither of them was nominated for a Golden Globe, there was still awards-season stress for **Demi Moore** and **Ashton Kutcher** when they ended up at the same pre-Golden Globes private party at L.A.'s Soho House, according to Us Weekly. "I saw him briefly say hi to her, but that was it. They spent most of the evening keeping a distance." There were plenty of other A-listers to talk to at the party, of course, including **Leonardo DiCaprio**, **Cameron Diaz** and **Madonna**, with whom Moore reportedly spent most of the evening chatting.

Don't feel too badly for Demi: Think about how nice it must be when Madonna is your fall-back so you don't have to talk to your obnoxious ex at a party.

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

On the Golden Globes: Bethenny Frankel picks the red carpet winner, Coco sends her regards, John Stamos needs to find some pants, Jackie Collins wonders what's up with the headband trend, Carson Daly needs a breather and Roger Ebert opines.

@Bethenny Brad and angelina: Winning. Game Over. Why did anyone else even show up? I'd s— my pants if I had to pose after her.

@cocosworld I was invited to the Golden Globes but decided to stay in NY but I already had a dress picked out in my mind

@JohnStamos guess it's time to think about an outfit --- ideas?

@jackiejcollins What's with all the head bands??

@carsonjdaly Its all happening so fast. Slooooooooow down people....

@ebertchicago Stars love Golden Globes cuz if they lose it means nothing. Also if they win.

Talking points

Heather Locklear returns home

Heather Locklear is safe at home after being hospitalized late last week for reportedly ingesting a life-threatening mix of booze and prescription pills, according to Us Weekly. Locklear was reportedly chatty and smiling upon being discharged from Los Robles Hospital in Thousand Oaks, Calif. Locklear's parents "wanted everybody to know that she's doing well, she's fine, she's not in any danger, she's healthy," a hospital spokeswoman says, adding that the episode was not a suicide attempt.

▶ Locklear

Jolie actually has feelings

Before **Angelina Jolie** could embark on her directorial debut with "In the Land of Blood and Honey," she had to get over a huge amount of self-doubt, she tells Marie Claire. "I had a complete emotional breakdown in the shower and **Brad [Pitt]** found me crying," Jolie says. "I felt this huge responsibility and I felt very small. 'Who am I to take this on?'"

The latest with Sinead O'Connor

After a brief reconciliation, **Sinead O'Connor** has doubled-back again and split with husband **Barry Herridge**, she confirms on her blog. The couple separated after 16 days of marriage before getting back together and then splitting again. In her post, O'Connor blames the media's scrutiny for the breakup. "Slowly, since we were married, I became very ill as a result of what was done to my husband, and I was unable to cope and became depressed," she writes. "The behavior of one particular paper resulted in very serious damage to my husband and myself personally, and consequently made the marriage untenable, so that it is now over."

METRO

Golden Globes red carpet: The good, the bad, the really ugly

1: Angelina Jolie looked like this last night. We don't blame Brad Pitt for not even trying.
2: George Clooney played it safe with classics: A black tux and a skinny blonde (girlfriend Stacy Keibler).
3: Uggie, the dog from "The Artist," looked dapper in a bow tie and a classic close-cropped cut with fluffy paws.
4: Sofia Vergara. You're welcome.
5: Zooey and Emily Deschanel played the adorable sisters card in hopes we'd forget to be bored by their dresses. It worked.
6: Kelly Osbourne was the poor man's Lady Gaga with her lilac-tinged hair and ill-fitting, boxy-sleeved Zac Posen gown.
7: Just as we suspected: Sarah Michelle Gellar never escaped the '90s.
8: Take note, everyone else: Only Mary J. Blige can stitch a Wookie to the bottom of her gown.

1: JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES
2: STEVE GRANITZ/WIREIMAGE
3: JEFF VESPA/WIREIMAGE
4: FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES
5: STEVE GRANITZ/WIREIMAGE
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7: STEVE GRANITZ/WIREIMAGE
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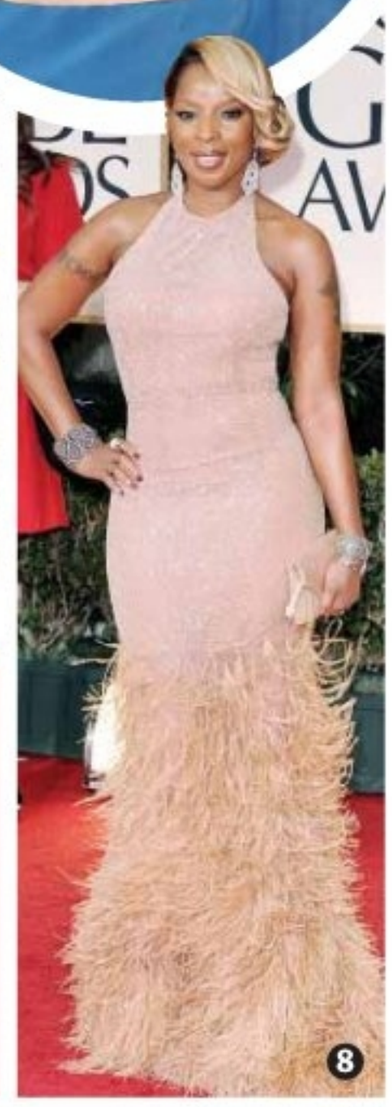


‘Contraband’ carries weekend box office

Box office

Thriller “Contraband” landed on top of weekend box office charts with $24.1 million in U.S. and Canadian ticket sales, studio estimates released on Sunday showed.

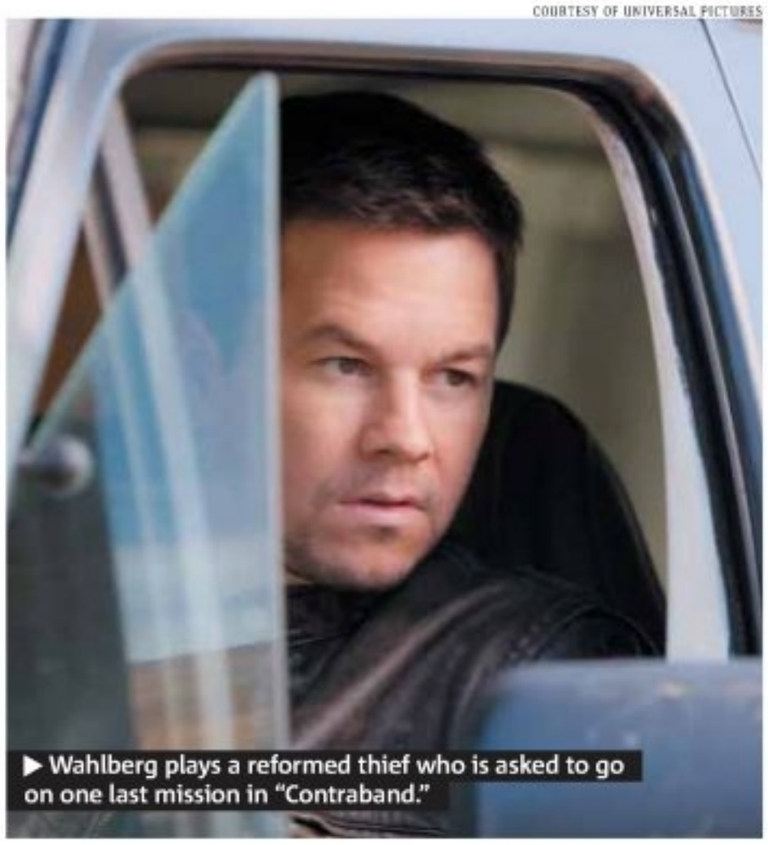
“Contraband,” starring Mark Wahlberg, beat a 3-D remake of Walt Disney Co. animated classic “Beauty and the Beast,” which brought in $18.5 million from Friday through Sunday.

Tom Cruise’s “Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol” ended the weekend in third place with $11.5 million.

New movie “Joyful Noise,” a musical tale about a church choir, ended the weekend in fourth place with $11.3 million domestically.

REUTERS

COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES



▶ Wahlberg plays a reformed thief who is asked to go on one last mission in “Contraband.”

TV watch list

‘How I Met Your Mother’

COMEDY. When Lily and Marshall officially move to the ‘burbs, the rest of the gang back in the city tries to cope by going to a strip club. You know, as mourning friends do. **8 p.m., CBS**

‘Betty White’s 90th Birthday: A Tribute to America’s Golden Girl’/‘Betty White’s Off Their Rockers’

SPECIAL. Everyone’s favorite elderly “It” girl turns 90, so Hollywood is throwing a huge, celebrity-filled bash in her honor. She’ll blow out the candles live from Los Angeles. Then at 9:30 p.m., NBC offers a sneak preview of White’s latest venture, a hidden camera show of sorts that features senior citizens pulling pranks on young people. **8 p.m., NBC**

‘Alcatraz’

DRAMA. Fifty years ago, more than 300 Alcatraz inmates disappeared — at least according to J.J. Abrams. In his newest supernatural island mystery, those prisoners are now reappearing and committing crimes once again, which makes this a fun twist on the crime procedural. Sarah Jones stars as the detective with family ties to The Rock who is trying to figure out what the heck is going on, while “Lost” star Jorge Garcia plays an Alcatraz expert helping her along the way. **Series premiere, 8 p.m., Fox** AMBER RAY

JAMES DITTIGER/FOX

▶ Sarah Jones and Jorge Garcia star in “Alcatraz.”

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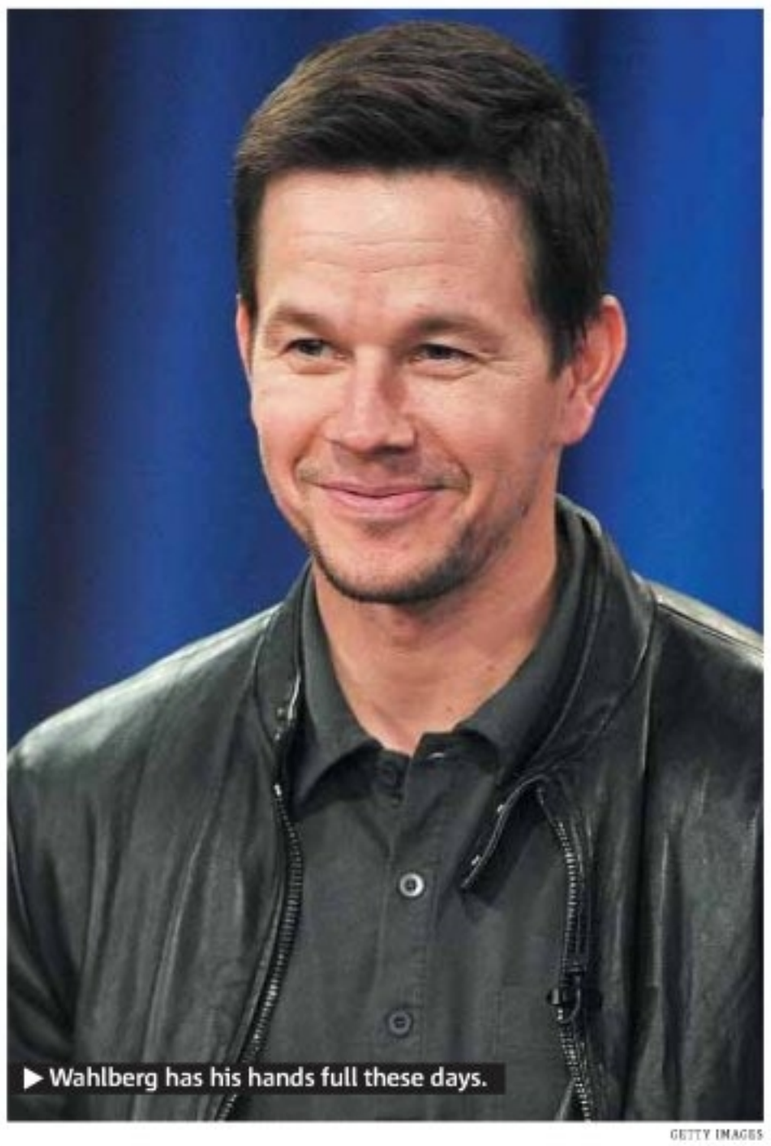

▶ Wahlberg has his hands full these days.

GETTY IMAGES

THE WONDER OF WAHLBERG

One of Hollywood's hottest power brokers chats with us about his upcoming projects and this weekend's box office champ, 'Contraband'

Mark Wahlberg is one of those unique forces in Hollywood. He's an award-winning actor and producer and, as he tells us, is looking to direct sometime soon. He's also got a solid hamburger joint going in the Boston 'burbs with his famous family called Wahlburgers. While promoting his new heist thriller, "Contraband," we spoke to Wahlberg about everything from the controversial ending to season two of "Boardwalk Empire" to the development of the sequel to "The Fighter."

We hear that since making "Contraband," which has to do with illegal smuggling on cargo ships, you've begun developing a reality show based on the same topic in the port of Los Angeles.

Yes. It's really following all the agencies that operate in there. It's a whole huge world in there. We're hoping to shoot the sizzle reel very soon though. We just shot the sizzle reel for "Wahlburger." It's all about our family business.

How is that going by the way?

Awesome. My brother Paul, who does not want to be on camera, is the star. My mother is the star and the food is just fantastic. I would've never done it like that — I certainly wouldn't have put my name and my brand out there like that if my brother wasn't as talented as he is. We could do a big opening and a lot of people would show up, but the food is so good, the lines are around the corner. We're doing more business than any other burger joint anywhere near us.

What's the progress been on developing the sequel to "The Fighter"?

It's really a standalone film. It's really about the relationship and those battles between Micky Ward and Arturo Gatti — and how, after these horrific wars, they became such good friends and yet they were still willing to go in there and inflict such pain on each other — and also the damage that those fights caused them mentally and physically afterwards. A lot of people don't know this, but Micky Ward trained Gatti for his last fight, and they were very close. Micky had no choice but to love Dicky because he was his brother, but he chose to have this relationship with Gatti.

Is the script written?

Scott Silver and I talked about it, and we're hoping that he's writing away right now. I'm not getting any younger. When Stallone shot the fifth "Rocky" he was 60. He shot the first one when he was 29.

The ending of HBO's "Boardwalk Empire," which you produce, had a bit of a Christopher Moltisanti-Tony Soprano outcome. Can you talk about making that decision?

The character who gets killed is a fictional character. Knucky is not, nor is Al Capone or obviously Luciano or any of those guys, so that was the way it had to go. But what an incredible ending. A lot of people were freaked out by it, but wait until they see the third season!

What are you listening to lately?

I just listened to KEARTH 101 or WKTU 103.5, the easy listening classics, but when my boys get in the car, it's Jay-Z and Kanye and Lil Wayne. And my oldest daughter, somehow she got a hold of a New Kids on the Block CD and that's all she listens to. I remember [the songs] and I'm like, oh my God, these are from a lifetime ago. But our nanny, who is a sweetheart, she's part of our family — she was a big New Kids fan. So she told my daughter about it and she got her the CD and the baseball cards and now she's got the Christmas album. And I said, hey, listen, Christmas is over this year.

HEIDI PATALANO
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Q&A

January is generally a time when some real stinkers come out in the theaters. What do you say to people to convince them to see "Contraband"?

▶ I'm getting all these phone calls and e-mails from people because they've seen the trailer and they're like, "That's something I want to see." There's no guys' movies coming out right now. There's been a lot of artsy-fartsy awards-type movies and [this] movie is really good. It's fun.

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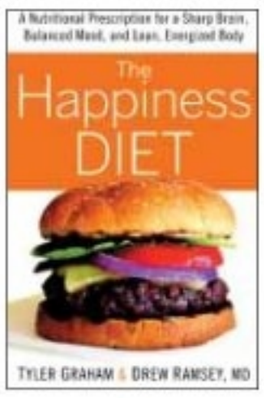
Good-mood foods — they're not what you might think!

For decades, butter and full-fat milk have been dietary no-nos. But "The Happiness Diet" co-authors, Tyler Graham and Dr. Drew Ramsey, say we need to return to these foods to build healthier, happier brains. According to this book, what's good for the brain is good for the body, too.


A Nutritional Prescription for a Sharp Brain, Balanced Mood, and Lean, Energized Body
The Happiness DIET
TYLER GRAHAM & DREW RAMSEY, MD

"We see obesity and diabetes increasing and mood disorders rising in epic proportions," says Graham, a former "O, The Oprah Magazine" health editor. "Science is showing more and more evidence that brain and body nutrition are linked."

Though the book's cover pictures an appetizing-looking burger, the authors aren't suggesting we head straight to the fast-food counter. On the contrary, the "Happiness Diet" promotes nutritionally rich organically raised meats, dairy and eggs with all the natural fats in tact. Low-fat products are nutritionally inferior, Graham says: "We have been misled."

For example, according to his research, in 1870 when Procter and Gamble began developing margarine, their butter-smearing campaign was filled with deliberately misleading medical data. It eventually led to last century's influx of manufactured margarine and products like Crisco.

"If it's created in a factory, we should not be eating it," says Graham. "We need to return to eating foods that are natural. They contain the right amount of omega-3s for the brain. Besides, they taste better too. We have to unlearn the Modern American Diet, which we call MAD for a good reason."

▶ Go ahead — take a swig.

DIGITAL VISION

Graham's picks: What to eat for happiness

- **Wild, sustainably caught fish:** "Try to eat at least two to three servings a week. Fish is a great source of B12, omega 3s and vitamin D, which are all crucial for beating the winter blues."
- **Coffee:** "It's perfectly healthy to drink coffee every morning. Not only does it boost mood, focus and energy, but research shows it may help stave off Alzheimer's."
- **Garlic:** "Diced and sauteed, this is a great start for everything from scrambled eggs to sauteed vegetables. Try to include it in your diet every day. [It] promotes blood flow to the brain and decreases blood pressure."
- **Chili peppers:** "All chili peppers contain the molecule capsaicin, which triggers the release of endorphins that relax the body."

LINDA CLARKE
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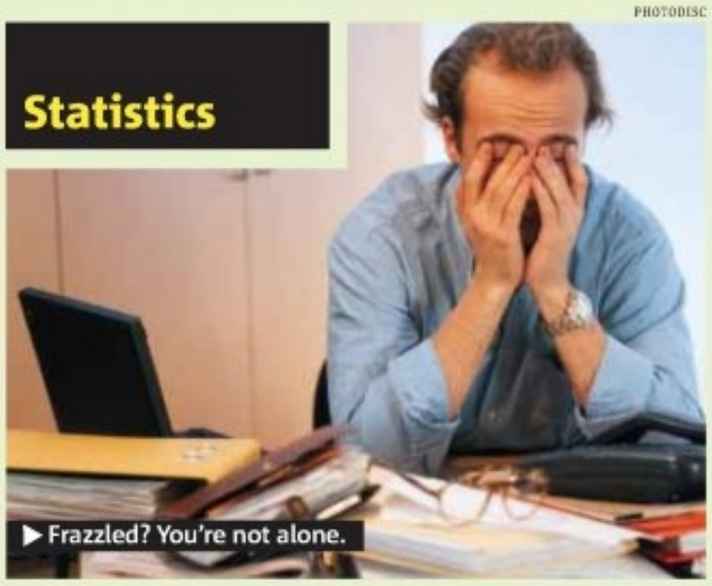

Statistics

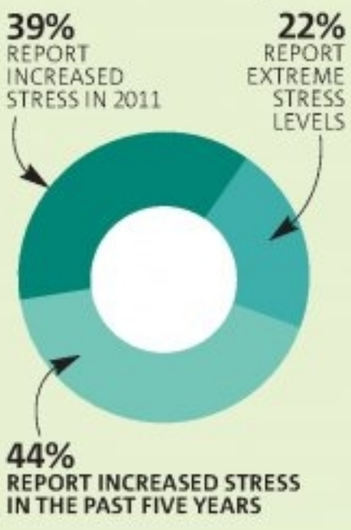
▶ Frazzled? You're not alone.

Just how stressed are Americans these days?

- **22 percent** report extreme stress (8, 9 or 10 on a 10-point scale, 10 being the highest).
- **39 percent** say their stress has increased over the past year.
- **44 percent** say the past five years increased their stress.

Caregivers were more likely to report stress than other Americans and more likely to have a chronic illness.

—Source: American Psychological Association's newest Stress in America survey



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myjobs

How to get a new job without even applying

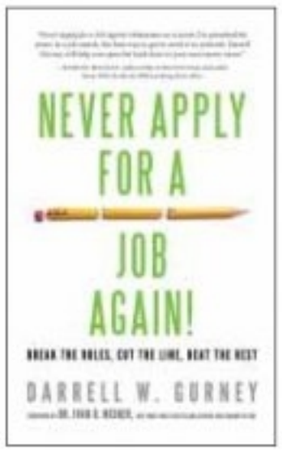
When it comes to your next job, it's all about the relationships you make now, says 'The Career Guy'

BRAND X PICTURES

▶ Spend more time forming relationships with people in your industry and less time writing cover letters.

After 15 years of executive recruiting, in 2000 Darrell W. Gurney reinvented himself as self-help author "The Career Guy." To use the parlance of the industry, it was a successful rebranding.

In his first book, "Headhunters Revealed," Gurney wanted to share the strategies of corporate placement agencies with a larger audience. "I feel all of us have one main job on the planet, which is to find what we're really turned on by," explains Gurney. "For me, I decided I wanted to teach people how to fish, rather than just give them a fish as a recruiter."



His latest effort, "Never Apply for a Job Again! Break the Rules, Cut the Line, Beat the Rest," hits stores this week. This time, The Career Guy is attempting to inspire his readers to end their social hibernation. And, above all, he stresses the importance of informal networking.

"The minute your outreach to people is that you need a job from them, you will get nowhere," he explains. "You want to pull people in because of your passion and enthusiasm, rather than [repel] them because of your desperate need."

Gurney points out that very few job opportunities happen the way we typically anticipate them. His advice: Stop spending so much time applying for jobs and start initiating conversations with professionals already around you. "Through the 'front door' you're competing with thousands of applicants, and you're completely locked into your résumé. You can't get beyond your past," Gurney says. "Through what I call 'the back door' — through relationships — it's the relationship that comes first, not your résumé."

Quoted

"You want to pull people in because of your passion and enthusiasm, rather than [repel] them because of your desperate need."
DARRELL W. GURNEY

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Camille Z. Charles is the Edmund J. and Louise W. Kahn Term Professor in the Social Sciences and Professor of Sociology and Education at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of *Won't You Be My Neighbor: Race, Class and Residence in Los Angeles* and co-author of *The Source of the River: The Social Origins of Freshmen at America's Selective Colleges and Universities and of Taming the River: Negotiating the Academic, Financial, and Social Currents in Selective Colleges and Universities.*

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The importance of cultivating a diverse workplace

BRAND X PICTURES

▶ More diversity means more ideas come to the table.

It's well understood that a workplace of similarly minded drones makes for a static environment. Also, it is required by law that companies be equal-opportunity employers. But aside from the obvious and the legal, there are reasons that diversity — regardless of the form it takes — lends itself to building a stronger company.

Dr. James Smither, Professor of Management at La Salle University, defines diversity as "the differences among people in terms of their personalities, underlying values and training." It is these aspects that make a powerful team. "Deep diversity can be beneficial to the team as a whole because it creates a team with broader knowledge and perspectives that in turn can enhance the quality of problem-solving and decision-making," he says.

The benefits of a diverse workforce aren't limited to the office. "The advantages of diverse workplaces extend beyond America's borders," says Peter Aranda, CEO at The Consortium for Graduate Study in Management. "The world is quickly becoming one giant multicultural marketplace in which U.S. companies vie for market share with competitors across the world. If American businesses want to stay in the game, they must become much more attuned to the nuances and needs of disparate cultures than they've been in the past."

JULIA WEST
letters@metro.us

Hiring in 2012

A recent CareerBuilder survey suggests that employers are clued in to the benefits:

Of those surveyed, 29 percent said they would be focusing on hiring diverse employees in 2012. Forty-four percent reported that they would be hiring bilingual workers.

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Metro readers are more than TWICE as likely than the average Philadelphia resident to plan to go back to school.
Source: Scarborough R2 2010, Base 35K+

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Letters

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Take your hands off of our food stamps

Dear Gov. Corbett: Your decision to make cuts to the Federal Food Stamp program (SNAP), which is a safety net for 1.8 million Pennsylvanians, is a danger to health and welfare in the highest order, especially during one of the state's worst recessions. To many, it appears that you are waging a war on the citizenry of poor and middle class Pennsylvania families who are in need of these benefits, including 439,245 in Philadelphia alone. Food-stamp benefits are a federal initiative and therefore, the state doesn't shell out or lose any money for those benefits. **ANTHONY P. JOHNSON, PHILADELPHIA**

"If she wants to date a garbage collector, let it be."

RE: "JLO IS PAYING CASPER SMART $10,000 A WEEK": Well I guess Casper makes JLo happy and JLo makes Casper happy. You get paid for doing your job right, so what's wrong with Casper getting paid? Do you have a problem with dancers? Are you saying if you're rich you cannot date someone who makes less? Did you know that Madonna is dating a younger dancer? Now what do you have to say about that? Please leave JLo alone and let her live her life. If she wants to date a garbage collector, let it be. **JOY HYLTON, VIA E-MAIL**

Let the states take care of themselves

RE: "RON PAUL WANTS TO CURB OUR LIBERTIES": Ron Paul wants to eliminate the FDA, EPA and OSHA, but that doesnt mean you'll be eating tainted food, breathing polluted air or being killed in the workplace. He wants the states to regulate themselves like the 10th amendment says. He is a true constitutional conservative, imagine that! The government needs to obey to the constitution — you know, that document that our country was founded on. In addition, he has no intention of overturning Roe vs. Wade in regards to abortions. Dealing with college students, college would be more affordable. If students couldn't get federal funding, then schooling wouldn't be so expensive (pricing would come down because of supply and demand). **TOM PUGNETTI, HATBORO, PA**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** A sensitive friend might misread what you say or how you act and end up with hurt feelings.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Being impulsive or too restless could be the precursor of unsound reasoning.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** If you want to make a good impression on others, the last thing you should do is boast about or embellish your achievements.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Believing you can get the funds isn't the same as having them in your hot little hands.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Usually you're bright enough not to succumb to flattery, but someone who is a master at compliments is likely to get you to lower your guard.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** There's only a ghost of a chance that you'll be able to achieve what you set out to do.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Just because someone is intriguing is no reason to get too deeply involved too quickly.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Bank only on yourself and not on Lady Luck to help you achieve a complicated objective.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** You might pretend to be knowledgeable about something and suffer extreme embarrassment when asked to school others on that particular subject.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** It behooves you to avoid involvements with those who are careless and/or extravagant with their finances.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** In order to avoid a future misunderstanding, you should make sure all agreements are negotiated with extreme care.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** It's not a good idea to pretend to have taken care of something when you clearly haven't, thinking you won't get caught. You can bet your bottom dollar you will.

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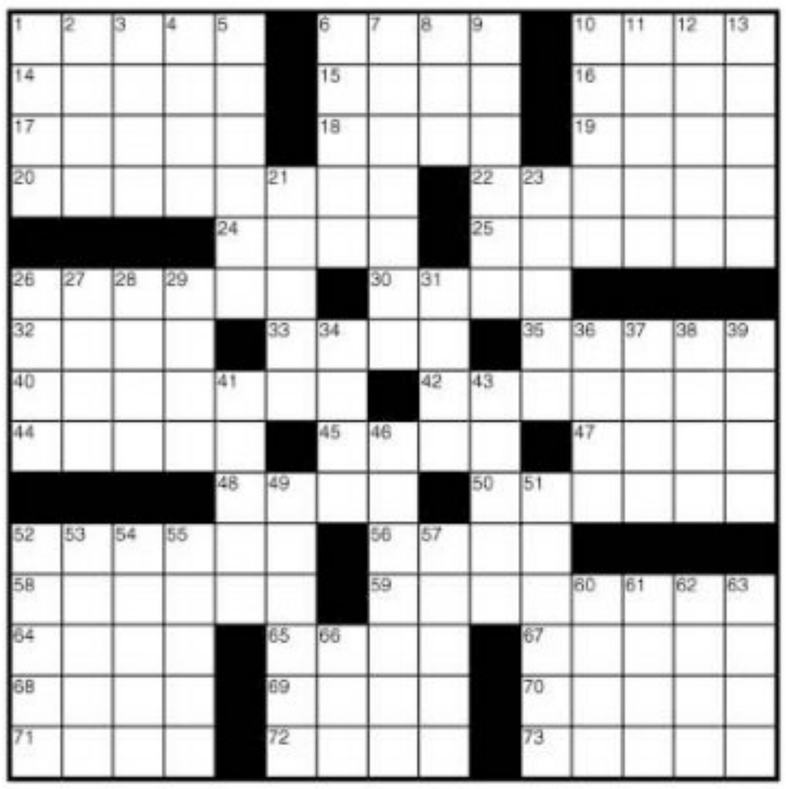

Across
1 Creditless writer
6 Lots and lots
10 Door frame part
14 Stagger
15 Emma's successor on "The Avengers"
16 Lotion additive
17 "Sesame Street" grouch
18 MIT grad
19 Spill protectors
20 "So?" (3 wds.)
22 Long-eared animal
24 Drury Lane composer
25 AOL notes
26 Woke up(2 wds.)
30 Sari wearer
32 Microbiology gel
33 Brass component
35 End-of-year temp
40 Put into words
42 CIA file
44 LaBelle or LuPone
45 Inscribe indelibly
47 Brownish tint
48 Close by
50 Vader's real name
52 Sizzled
56 A unit of farmland
58 Wedding acquisitions (hyph.)
59 Popular houseplant
64 Flunk
65 Director __ Kazan
67 Prometheus, e.g.
68 Andes empire
69 Camera's eye
70 Bell town of fiction
71 Nut, actually
72 Weary exhale
73 Squeal (2 wds.)

Down
1 Look happy
2 Stop talking
3 Whale like Shamu
4 A word to kitty
5 Vampire target
6 Rathskeller mug
7 Kerosene burner
8 Joule fraction
9 Mazelike place
10 "Star Wars" crime lord
11 Suspect's need
12 It merged with Exxon
13 Defeats
21 Preserved veggies
23 Not quite right
26 Fearless Fosdick's creator
27 Ottoman title
28 Retail center
29 Q.E.D. part
31 "Moneytalks" group
34 Theory
36 Offshore
37 Shaving mishap
38 Garr or Hatcher
39 __ __ for one's money
41 Tendon
43 Tara inhabitant
46 Wall Street activity
49 Ford follies
51 Delicious drink
52 Platter players (hyph.)
53 Shallow
54 Piece of cake
55 Dinner starter
57 Come uninvited
60 Verdi heroine
61 "L'__, c'est moi"
62 Prefix for second
63 Presently
66 Luau welcome

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		2	5	4	6		9	
3								4
	5		3	9	7	2		
6					3			
	2	7				6	3	
			9		5	4		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

	4	2	3					
3			8				4	
				1				6
1		7			9		5	
	5	3	7		1	2	9	
	6		5			7		1
9				8				
	7				4			3
					7	5	6	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to weekend's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS: WWW.METRO.US/PUZZLES

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Check your ego at door

Sixers winning without true star ◗ Seven players averaging 10 points per game ◗ Collins selling team concept hard ◗ Drawing comparisons to 2004 Pistons

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Sixers coach Doug Collins has sold the team concept to his young team, especially Andre Iguodala and Elton Brand.

The NBA is just a bunch of overpaid, selfish, ball-hogging dunkers, right?

Wrong.

In South Philadelphia, the Sixers are quietly bucking the norm by using a team-oriented style to sprint out to a division-leading 9-3 start. Seven different players have led them in scoring already and seven players are averaging at least 10.0 points per game.

"It's a big positive. You're not pushed away in the backseat," said forward Thaddeus Young. "Everybody's in the front seat, everybody's on the driver's side. That's how we are. We're a team."

Not everyone would agree it's a positive. Among 14 teams with winning records, only three (Sixers, Pacers, Spurs) don't have a 17-point per game scorer. Lou Williams leads the Sixers at 16.1.

In the last 20 seasons, only two teams (2008 Celtics, 2004 Pistons) have won championships without a 20-point scorer. But that's not the way the Sixers are built.

"This was a franchise that for about 10 years was star-driven. It was Allen Iverson," said coach Doug Collins. "And people came in here to see this little guy play some amazing basketball. We now are trying to develop some stars along the way, some young stars that we can have for a long time."

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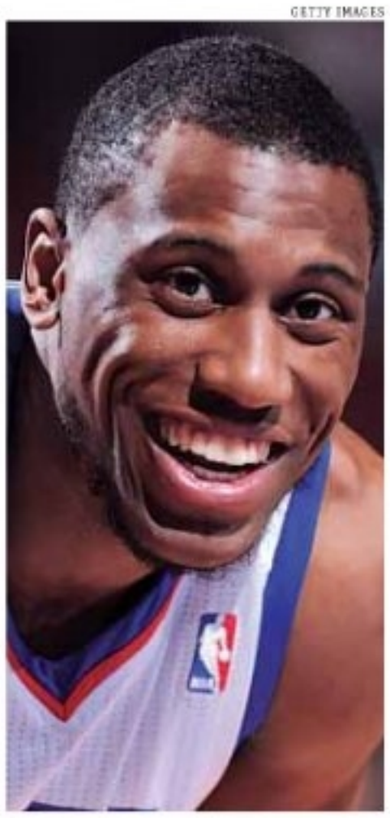

Quoted

"Everybody's in the front seat, everybody's on the driver's side. That's how we are. We're a team."
THADDEUS YOUNG

This isn't a system Collins brings with him everywhere he goes. When he had the likes of Michael Jordan, Jerry Stackhouse and Richard Hamilton in previous stops, he ran isolation sets. Now he runs a strict motion offense featuring multiple pick-and-rolls within every possession.

"I think it's just based on personnel," Collins said. "We know that for us to do that gives us a better chance to win."

Collins has sold the entire organization on this team concept. There's not a sniff of selfishness, jealousy or controversy over minutes and shots in the locker room.

"We share the ball," said 13-year veteran Elton Brand. "Sometimes it's Jodie's night, sometimes it's Dre's night, sometimes Thaddeus. But all the time it's us. We're a team. That's what's going to take us far."

ADAM LEVITAN
alevitan@metro.us

On deck

Sixers host Bucks today, then Nuggets

The Sixers are home for three games before taking their talents to South Beach to face LeBron James and the Miami Heat. Here's this week's schedule:

- vs. Milwaukee Bucks, today, 2 p.m.
- vs. Denver Nuggets, Wednesday, 7 p.m.
- vs. Atlanta Hawks, Friday, 7 p.m.

National buzz

The Sixers are buzzing in the national media. A sampling for where they rate in various power rankings:

- Chris Sheridan » 3rd
- John Hollinger (ESPN) » 1st
- Marc Stein (ESPN) » 7th
- John Schumann (NBA) » 7th
- David Aldridge (NBA) » 13th

15.16
Sixers point differential, which is tops in the NBA, almost five full points ahead of Chicago.

0
Teams that have won the NBA championship in the last 20 years without a single 17-point per game scorer.

Lack of true superstar hurting attendance

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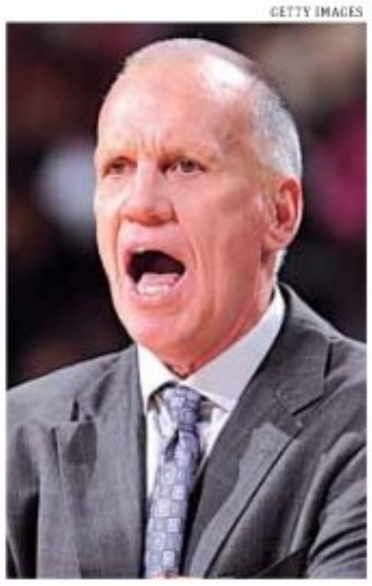

Sixers fans are telling the franchise that star power drives ticket sales more than wins right now.

The Sixers rank 29th out of 30 NBA teams in home attendance at 13,402 fans per game. Anyone that has been to the Wells Fargo Center knows the actual number is much lower.

"It's about proving it back to the city," said Thaddeus Young. "This is definitely a blue-collar town, a town that loves a team that's going to go out there and play hard. It's a matter of just going out there and doing it."

Follow the blueprint

These Sixers are starting to draw comparisons to the 2003-04 Pistons team that went 54-28 in the regular season and knocked off the Lakers in the Finals.

That Detroit team had four players average at least 10.0 points per game and were led by Richard Hamilton's 17.6 ppg.

"They didn't have maybe that super-duper guy," said Doug Collins. "They had a good bench, and they played good defense, and they shared the ball. That's where we have to climb. And when we do that, it's beautiful basketball."

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Four teams, one Lombardi

Ravens, Giants claim final two spots for championship weekend ◗ Patriots, 49ers punched tickets Saturday ◗ Baltimore's defense swarming as usual, Manning playing at elite level ◗ Metro previews Sunday's games

Crab cakes for everyone.

Even Joe Flacco.

The Ravens held on to beat the Houston Texans 20-13 yesterday in the AFC divisional round. Baltimore will head to New England Sunday to face the No. 1-seeded Patriots. Flacco, who joked with reporters earlier this week about not getting enough credit, did just enough to get the W. He finished 14-of-27 for 176 yards and two touchdowns for the Ravens. Houston coughed the ball up four times and Baltimore played error-free football — no turnovers, no penalties.

"The four turnovers were huge," said Ravens coach John Harbaugh. "That's the difference in football games, especially at this time of year. The fact that we capitalized on turnovers was probably the key to the game."

Ray Lewis and Ed Reed led a defensive unit that held to the potent Texans offense to just one touchdown. Lewis recorded a team-high seven tackles and Reed sealed it with an interception near the goal line in the final minutes.

"Turnovers killed our opportunity to win, and that's what hurts now," said Texans quarterback T.J. Yates.

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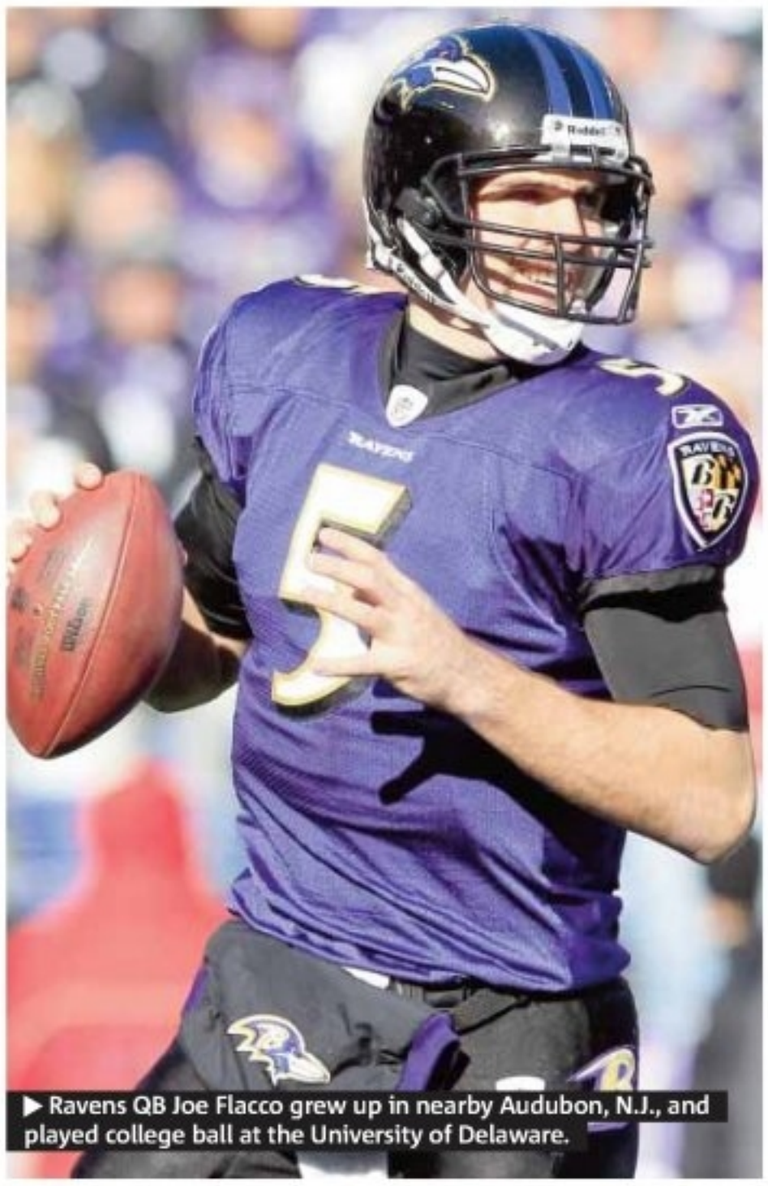

▶ Ravens QB Joe Flacco grew up in nearby Audubon, N.J., and played college ball at the University of Delaware.

Championship weekend

We are down to the NFL's Final Four after the Ravens and Giants punched the final two tickets. Here's a look at next weekend's AFC and NFC championship games:

▶ **Baltimore (13-4) at New England (14-3), Sunday, 3 p.m. (CBS)**
Scoop: Contrasting styles go head-to-head, as the Pats' second-ranked offense (428 yards per game) meets the Ravens' third-ranked defense (288.9 yards).
History lesson: Baltimore upset New England 33-14 in the 2009 wild-card round when Tom Brady posted the worst passer rating of his prolific playoff career (49.1).
Prediction: Ravens 23, Patriots 17. We're predicting Joe Flacco makes just enough plays to get it done.

▶ **NY Giants (10-7) at San Francisco (14-3), Sunday, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)**
Scoop: Eli Manning is playing arguably the best football of his career, but this is one is all about the pass-rush. The Giants ranked third in sacks (48), with the 49ers close behind them in seventh (42).
History lesson: Giants faced the 49ers back on Nov. 13 and narrowly lost, 27-20, on a fourth-down stop in the closing seconds.
Prediction: 49ers 20, Giants 17. In the end, the Niners are just a little deeper — and more talented — on defense. The X-factor? Alex Smith.

He said it

"He knows how to win games. If you're not ready to punch him in the mouth, he's going to eat you up all night."

BRONCOS CB CHAMP BAILEY, TALKING ABOUT PATRIOTS QB TOM BRADY. NEW ENGLAND DEFEATED DENVER 45-10 SATURDAY NIGHT TO ADVANCE.

Giants shock Packers at Lambeau Field — again

Eli Manning said he was elite. Now, he's proving it with his play on the field.

Following a 37-20 upset win yesterday over Green Bay, Manning has his Giants in the NFC title game for the second time in four years.

Manning outdueled probable NFL MVP Aaron Rodgers by chucking three TDs, including a dagger to Mario Manningham with 6:48 left. Brandon Jacobs iced it with a 14-yard score.

The Packers (15-2), the NFL's best team all season, committed four turnovers and dropped nine balls in a forgettable performance.

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1500 Belmont Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19104 on Monday, January 25rd ,2012 @ 11:00 am

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Syracuse stars reflect on the Sixers, Iverson

Ten years ago, Scoop Jardine and Dion Waiters used to sit in the stands and wait for Allen Iverson to come running through the tunnel.

In 2001, when Iverson was leading the Sixers to the NBA Finals, Jardine and Waiters were two of his biggest fans.

Who knew that 10 years later, this duo would be shining on the very same court.

Jardine and Waiters led No. 1 Syracuse into Philadelphia last Wednesday for a 79-66 victory over Villanova at the Wells Fargo Center. The Orange are 18-0 and, thanks to a pair of Philly kids, Syracuse might win its second national championship.

"I loved watching A.I. play and I couldn't wait to see him run through the tunnel," said Jardine, a fifth-year senior who once starred at Neumann-Goretti. "I was a huge Sixers fan and still am. If I could high-five the players, it made my day. A.I. was unbelievable and I just loved how he played hard every night."

Waiters starred at Burlington Life Academy Center (N.J.), but was raised in Philadelphia. He scored a game-high 20 points against the Wildcats, one of his best games this season.

"I'm a big Sixers fan, too, and watching A.I. was amazing," Waiters said. "I love Philly hoops, but playing for Syracuse is something I wanted. It's working out very well. I'm very excited about our chances this season."

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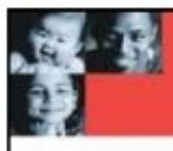

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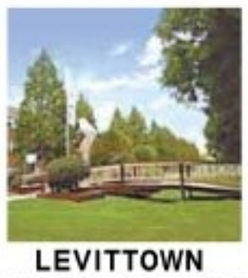

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motoring

Buzz around Tesla's electric car takes hit

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Tesla's highly anticipated Model S electric cars will hit the dealerships by midyear.

◗ Stocks for former hotshot US automaker plunge after two executives leave ◗ But analysts say testing for Model S, with base price of $57,000, is in good shape so far

Tesla Motors plunged a record 19 percent Friday after saying two senior engineers on the new Model S luxury sedan left the U.S. electric carmaker just months before the auto goes on sale.

Peter Rawlinson, Tesla's vice president and chief engineer, and Nick Sampson, who supervised vehicle and chassis engineering, departed this month, according to Ricardo Reyes, a spokesman for the Palo Alto, Calif.-based company.

"Having completed conceptual and design engineering work on Model S, Peter has decided to step away to tend to personal matters in the U.K.," Reyes said.

Sampson had "fully transitioned" off the Model S at the time of his departure, Reyes said without elaborating.

Tesla, which received a $465 million U.S. loan to build its rechargeable models at a plant in Fremont, Calif., plans to begin producing and selling Model S cars by midyear. The company said last month that initial versions, able to travel as far as 300 miles per charge, will sell for as much as $92,400 before a $7,500 tax credit.

The departures "may be for personal reasons, but it doesn't look good," said Jim Hall, principal of 2953 Analytics Inc., an automotive consulting firm in Birmingham, Mich. "And for Tesla, looks are very important at this point."

The Model S is Tesla's second vehicle, following its $109,000 Roadster, and is intended to expand the company's sales volume with a base model starting at $57,400, before the tax credit. That version will go as far as 160 miles per charge.

Tesla tumbled to $22.79 at Wall Street's close Friday.

BLOOMBERG

'Much diminished'

"The uncertainty around Model S is now much diminished, as anyone who has seen the beta vehicles and toured the factory will appreciate," Elon Musk, Tesla's chief executive officer and biggest shareholder, said last week. "There is no question in my mind that we will start delivering vehicles in July, if not sooner."

Jerome Guillen, formerly with Daimler, will assume Rawlinson's duties, and Tesla hired a former Volkswagen executive "to help in the final stretch of bringing Model S into production," Musk said.

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Black Sundays with mean Mercedes Benz

Take a trip in one of luxury automaker's rare 'Black' editions of C63 model You'll need a speedway

On a racetrack, there's something that could be called the art of the slide. In a $130,000 Mercedes-Benz at California's Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca, I think I may just have perfected it.

The C63 AMG Black Series is the ultimate vehicle for this perilous task.

You'd be forgiven for equating Mercedes with leather-drenched executive sedans instead of hell-for-leather racetrack rockets. Yet its performance arm, AMG, turns pre-existing models into more extreme (and expensive) forms.

Then there's a level beyond: the Black Series. Only two previous models, the CLK and SL, have gotten Black Series treatment. They are ludicrous.

Now we get the C63 Black, out in March and based on the C-Class sedan. It's less extreme than the CLK, but keener. The regular C350 compared to the C63 Black Series is like Tony Stark before he puts on his Iron Man costume. The $41,500 C350 has four doors and a V-6 engine with 302 horsepower. It reaches 60 miles per hour in 5.9 seconds.

Its Black cousin is a two-door coupe that starts at around $105,000 and has a 6.3-liter V-8 with 517 hp. Its top speed is 186 mph and it reaches 60 mph in 4.2 seconds.

Walk around the C63 and its racy intentions are clear. There's a carbon-fiber wing bristling out of the rear, oversize Dunlop high-performance tires and a fire extinguisher bracketed to the front of the driver's seat. This low-volume ride is aimed at Mercedes-Benz (DAI) customers who probably have access to a private racetrack on Sundays. BLOOMBERG

At a glance

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GETTY IMAGES

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